

OLC 75-1978  
HC

Review Staff No. 75/2265

August 15, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Review Staff,

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SUBJECT : CIA Substantive Intelligence Support for Congress

1. Congressman Milford has asked if there is some way Congress can share in CIA's substantive product. This is a valid question and the Congressman might be pleased to learn that we have made some significant strides in this direction.

2. During his confirmation hearings, the DCI promised to be forthcoming with the Congress. We now have one substantive intelligence officer assigned full-time to support Congress. This support includes briefings for individual members as well as Committees on almost every conceivable foreign economic, political, and military development. Besides the briefings, we have provided staffs and members with intelligence support in the form of reports, memoranda, statistics, biographics, maps, foreign press reporting, and just plain answers to questions. We have even done translations. Both classified and unclassified material has been provided.

3. A quick scan of activities in support of Congress for the month of July shows personal briefings were given to ten senators; two senators' staffs; three Members of the House; one full House Committee (Agriculture); and two House Subcommittees (Panama-Merchant Marine; Intelligence-Armed Services). More than 100 documents were provided in response to Congressional requests, exclusive of those given the Select Committee itself.

4. Naturally, there are problems inherent in our Congressional support. It is always hard to serve two masters, and particularly so when the Administration is from a different party, with different political interests, than the majority of the Congress. The obvious possibility is that information we provide a Senator or Congressman will be used against the Administration. It has happened and it puts the Agency in an embarrassing position. For the most part, however, our Congressional customers do respect the delicate relationship.

5. Another problem is resources, primarily people-time. Agency strength has been cut back, but the requirements levied upon it have increased. We now find more and more analytical time and talent being devoted to Congressional support. This is part of a general trend which sees a growing number of "consumers" in the US Government as a whole, along with a demand for finished intelligence targeted and packaged to meet a larger number of specific "needs to know."

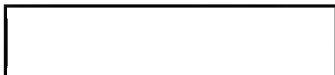
6. This leads us to the problem of how much is enough and whom do you serve. There are 535 Senators and Congressmen. All have staffs who are quite rightly in search of support. Then there are a number of committees with staffs which feel they have a legitimate claim on intelligence support. Obviously, if Agency support to Congress were carried to the extreme of serving everybody with everything, we would not be able to perform our primary task for the President and his advisers.

7. Right now, we are still able, we believe, to handle some increase in business without undue strain. We want to help the Congress and the Director is determined that we will. As more and more people on the Hill "discover" CIA, however, we will have to make adjustments, either increasing the resources we dedicate to Congress or defining more specifically --and perhaps more narrowly--just what role we play on the Hill and for whom we play it.

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Review Staff: 75/2265Date 9 August 1975

TO : CIA Task Force

FROM : The Review Staff, 

SUBJECT : SSC/HSC Request

RECEIVED: Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

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Questions asked by the HSC members and staffers reflect serious misconceptions or apprehensions about intelligence work. Probably these views are representative of the general public understanding. We need to correct the worst of these in unclassified briefing papers written in laymen's terms that can be made available for the public record. Where necessary for full understanding, we can include a classified addendum to round out the information.

For example, Congressman Milford at length wondered if there was some way Congress could share in CIA substantive products so members could be better informed.

Please provide a paper describing what we have done so far, the difficulties we encounter, and perhaps make some suggestions for improvement.

Comments:

Action Info

SC/DCI		X
A/DDA		
A/DBI	(X)	
A/DDO		
A/DDS&T		
OGC		
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